

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2013
MEADOW EDGE GOLF COURSE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Dawn Hopkins	Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Islip
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Southold
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, S.C. Planning & Environment
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PUBLIC PORTION

Peter Malaty presented his views on restrictions for ice anglers in Suffolk County. Commissioner Dawson stated that the County Attorney's office has the information Mr. Malaty provided for review and that he will arrange for Mr. Malaty to meet with our Principal Environmental Analyst, Nick Gibbons who also chairs the Sportsman's Advisory Committee to discuss any possibilities for change in the future.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2013

Page 2 – middle of first paragraph. The local fire department has suggested connecting the two roads up at the top of the peninsula **would cut** into County Parks' property.

A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Lauretta Fischer gave a brief description of the reconfiguring of the Department of Economic Development & Planning that took place last year. Lauretta represents the Division of Planning and Environment and Janet Longo represents the Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management.

The one proposed acquisition presented is a small lot in the Warbler Woods County Park area in the Town of Brookhaven. It is located in the hamlet of Yaphank, Middle Island area and the property is .136 acres and approximately 50' x 100' in size. The county has significant holdings in this area and recommends that the parcel be acquired under the 1986 Open Space Preservation program which was enacted to protect woodlands, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive properties. It is located in the Pine Barrens core area.

Trustee Hopkins made a motion to acquire the parcel and seconded by Trustee McKay. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson reported on pending work on the concrete walkway near the pavilion at Smith Point and the walkways going down to the beach that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. DPW submitted the bids and the purchase orders are being prepared to make those repairs. The Commissioner is confident that we will be ready to open by Memorial Day weekend.

All County golf courses will open as scheduled on March 15th. Timber Point will have 18 holes playable on opening day, and hopefully the full 27 open by the end of June. We had major wash overs and damage on the Blue Course and all the grass was affected.

There is a bill pending which was tabled at the Parks Committee meeting and will go before a Public Hearing on Tuesday. Legislator Spencer's bill would ban the sale of energy drinks in all Suffolk County Parks.

Legislator Schneiderman has a resolution scheduled to go before the Legislature which would amend our current golf course fee structure to allow veterans to pay the same rate as senior citizens. Presently, veterans get discounts at most Parks locations, with the exception of golf courses. At this time, senior citizens can golf Monday through Friday at a reduced rate (\$17 rather than \$28) and pay full charge on Saturdays and Sundays. The passage of this resolution would allow veterans to take part in this same offer.

Trustee White made a motion in favor of this resolution being approved and it was seconded by Trustee Cardillo. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-1-0.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Trustee Borden announced that a tentative meeting schedule was drawn up for the year 2013. Trustee Sickles stated that the Town of Southampton hasn't had a meeting held there since prior to 2010 and he would like to hold one in 2013. Commissioner Dawson asked for a location where inclement outdoor weather wouldn't be an issue and he would certainly be open to it. Trustee Sickles suggested an indoor meeting at Black Duck Lodge or in the dining hall or main house at the Smithers property. It was agreed upon to substitute a site in the Town of Southampton for the Long Island Maritime Museum in the month of August.

Trustee McKay made a motion to adopt the 2013 meeting schedule as amended with a Town of Southampton meeting to be held in August and it was seconded by Trustee Sickles. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Chairman Borden inquired if there were any updates on the Camp Alvernia property. Trustee McKay stated that to his knowledge, Legislator Spencer hadn't taken any action yet but that he arranged for a general community meeting on Monday of next week at the Legion Hall in Northport. Trustee McKay planned to attend that meeting and inquire as to whether any further decisions had been made.

Chairman Borden asked the Commissioner if the Parks Department was successful in acquiring the needed leftover Christmas trees from the Home Depots and Fire Departments to aid in the ongoing erosion problem. The Commissioner stated that over 3,000 trees were contributed and distributed at Smith Point and Cupsogue. Much of the snow fencing at Cupsogue has already been buried and the fencing at Smith Point is currently about half buried. We have had two additional breaches since Hurricane Sandy and the crews continue to work on it.

Chairman Borden inquired about how many contracts the Parks Department has entered into with Lessings. Commissioner Dawson reported that Lessings has a contract with the Parks Department at Meadow Edge in West Sayville, Timber Point in Great River and Coindre Hall in Huntington. Fred Marsillio runs the Beach Huts at Cupsogue, Meschutt and Smith Point Parks.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Sickles asked if the outer beach stickers are available yet. Commissioner Dawson stated that they are on sale and that there is a disclaimer that the public will be asked to sign. Fees will be non-refundable. The disclaimer states that the Parks Department anticipates more closures this year than last due to erosion conditions. In addition, the wash overs have created a perfect nesting habitat for the piping plover population.

Trustee Cardillo mentioned the anniversary of the passing of Ray Corwin who formerly held the Member at Large position on the Board of Trustees. This position has never been refilled and Trustee White stated that he would like to see John Pavacic take it over. The ongoing issue of missing trustees to represent the Towns of Southold, Islip and Babylon arose once again.

Trustee McKay announced that the Town of Huntington had plans to purchase the Carpenter Farm in Greenlawn and had arranged for closing on the property when it was discovered that there are two surveys - one of them showing that the town would be purchasing half of someone's swimming pool! The closing was not completed.

Trustee Hopkins was pleased to announce that the Ronkonkoma Lake Foundation has been officially designated as a 501C3, earning them non-profit status.

Trustee Sickles inquired if there are any updates on the status of the Parks Foundation. Commissioner Dawson reported that once the position of director is filled, there is every intention to continue efforts with the Parks Foundation. Trustee Sickles and Commissioner Dawson agreed that the Parks Foundation has the potential to do a lot of good for the Parks Department.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2013 at Meadow Edge Golf Course, West Sayville, New York.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.